

St. John's United Church of Christ
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Like us on Facebook at
St Johns UCC Allentown

**Personal hearing devices are available
from an usher.**

***Indicates that people may stand as they are able**

October 5, 2025

11:00am

Tower Chimes

Janet Cook

Music to Gather: "Communion"

P. Settimio Zimarino

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Corp.**

***Welcome**

Call to Worship by Joanna from Spacious Faith

One: We gather together to worship God.

All: We gather together to share this Holy meal.

One: We gather around this table

All: To which Christ has invited us.

One: You've got a place at this table

All: We all have a place at this table.

One: We will feast on milk and honey.

All: We will give thanks. We will find our home with God together.

One: So welcome to worship! Welcome to the table!

All: Hallelujah and amen!

**Hymn #273.....“Praise with Joy
the World’s Creator”**

The Iona Community, 1985; alt.

1. Praise with joy the world's Cre-a-tor,
God of jus-tice, love, and peace,
Source and end of hu-man knowl-edge,
grace be-stow-ing with-out cease.
Cel-e-brate the Ma-ker's glo-ry,
power to res-cue and re-lease.
2. Praise to Christ who feeds the hun-gry,
frees the cap-tive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, up-sets re-li-gion,
fear-less both of fate and cost.
Cel-e-brate Christ's con-stant pres-ence—
Friend and Strang-er, Guest and Host.
3. Praise the Spir-it sent a-mong us,
lib-er-a-ting truth from pride,
Forg-ing bonds where race or gen-der,
age or na-tion dare di-vide.
Cel-e-brate the Spir-it's trea-sure—
fool-ish-ness none dare de-ride.
4. Praise the Mak-er, Christ, and Spir-it,
one God in Com-mu-ni-ty,
Call-ing Christ-ians to em-bod-y
one-ness and di-ver-si-ty.
Thus the world shall yet be-lieve when
shown Christ's vi-brant un-i-ty.

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Profession of Faith

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here! Let us gather together in Christ's presence as we prepare our hearts and minds together at the table as one body.

All: Fairest Lord Jesus, today we joined with our brothers and sisters and siblings throughout the world to remember the incredible gift of your salvation. On this World Communion Sunday, we ask that your presence would be with all of those who suffer, and mourn, and hunger for your justice. We come to this table and ask that you would nourish our minds, bodies, and souls. Help us to become your hands and feet moving in our world. As we celebrate the cup of the new covenant, make us a renewed people. Amen.

Confession Response #487, Verse 1

**Surely no one can be safer
than God's children, held in favor,
Not the stars so brightly beaming,
not the birds to nests returning.**

Assurance of Grace

One: Beloved community, when we come before Jesus Christ and profess our need for salvation, we find blessing upon blessing, grace upon grace, and love beyond measure.

All: "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart, one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." -Romans 10:9-10

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen, Amen.**

Mission Moment

Rev. Bill Falla

Scriptures

Henry Dopera

Reading 1: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 (page 612)

Reading 2: Luke 16:1-13 (page 846)

Congregational Response 🎵 (aka prayer
for grace)

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Children's Moment

Sermon: "The Dishonest Manager"

Rev. Becky Sausser

Hymn #493 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

(Note: Ushers will collect "Prayer Cards" during this time. Prayer cards are in the pews.)

Morning Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

O Jesus, I Have Promised

John E. Bode, 1868; alt.

1. O Je-sus, I have prom-ised to serve you to the end;
re-main for-ev-er near me, my Sav-ior and my Friend:
I shall not fear life's strug-gles if you are by my side,
nor wan-der from the path-way if you will be my guide.
2. O let me hear you speak-ing in ac-cents clear and still,
a-bove the storms of pas-sion, the mur-murs of self-will!
O speak to re-as-sure me, to has-ten or con-trol!
O speak, and make me lis-ten, O guar-dian of my soul!
3. O Je-sus, you have prom-ised to all who fol-low you
that where you are in glo-ry your ser-vant shall be, too;
And, Je-sus, I have prom-ised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to fol-low my Sav-ior and my Friend!

Luke 9:57; John 14:1-4

Prayer Response 🎵 Hymn #510 Verse 3

**Grant us diligence in doing,
Patience when your truth pursuing,
Eager to receive renewing,
God of mercy, hear us.**

Chancel Choir “One Bread, One Body”
John B. Foley, S.J.

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A CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Almighty.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: Eternal God, you created the heavens and earth, giving breath to every living thing. We thank you for the gift of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though You have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care.

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history.

We take courage from the abiding praise of men, women, and persons of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love

and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints and with all the company of heaven, we glorify you singing...

People (Singing the Sanctus Hymn #795)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heaven and earth are full, are full, of the majesty of Thy Glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosannah, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: We remember that on the night He was betrayed and deserted, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my

body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup after supper, and gave thanks for it, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

People: By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ’s death, we celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and we await Christ’s coming again.

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, we ask you to meet us where we are today in your mercy; we ask you to bless this bread and this cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, your church, your servant people, that we may be salt, light, and leaven in this world that you so deeply love.

Receiving the Elements

Pastor: Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life that Christ gives. The gifts of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

(At this time our ushers will bring the bread representing the body of Christ into the congregation. If you prefer to receive individually wrapped elements, there will be wrapped communion cups on this tray that have both the bread and juice.)

Pastor: The body of Christ. (At this time, partake of the bread.)

Pastor: The blood of Christ. (At this time partake of the juice.)

Pastor: Let us join together in prayer.

People: As one body, we lament with those who lament. We hope with those who hope. We live with suffering. We live with beauty. Let us go from this table as a renewed community, doing

the radical work of Jesus that calls us to live justice-making lives of faith. We are followers of God's way. We give thanks and praise! Amen!

Announcements

Jeff Rissell

Offering

Offertory "Ayre" on Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

Richard Proulx

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* Doxology 

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

* **Hymn #89**....." Awake, Awake to Love and Work"

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

Geoffrey A. Studdert-Kennedy, 1921; alt.

1. A-wake, a-wake to love and work!
The lark is in the sky;
the fields are wet with dia-mond dew;
The worlds a-wake to cry
their prais-es to the Fount of Life;
Christ Je-sus pass-es by.
2. Come, let your voice be one with theirs,
shout with their shout of praise;
See how the gi-ant sun soars up,
God's gift for all your days!
So let the love of Je-sus come
and set your soul a-blaze,
3. To give and give, and give a-gain,
as God's own grace is free;
To spend your-self nor count the cost;
To serve most glo-rious-ly
the God who gave all worlds that are,
and all that are to be.

* Commission and Blessing

* **Threefold Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Music to Go Forth

“Psalm of Glory” Lani Smith

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***The Altar flowers are in memory of Alan
Huff by Kate Terrell.***

Special Announcements/Reminders:

You can give ELECTRONICALLY from
your mobile device using the VancoMobile
app. You can download this app from the

Apple and Google App stores. The church's name is - stjohnsuccallentown - exactly as shown. You can also give on our homepage www.stjohnsuccallentown.org by clicking on the "Donate" button.

In emergencies, please use exits found to the left and right of the altar, to the right of the front pew, and at the rear of the sanctuary. Follow **EXIT** signs

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

God is still speaking, ...

Serving St. John's...

Rev. Becky Sausser.....Pastor
Lois Mease... Music Director and Organist
April Riddick.....Custodian
Jim Saylor.....Sunday Sexton

And too many volunteers to list!

Office Hours

Sunday: 9am-2pm

Monday-Thursday: 9am-3pm

Closed on Fridays and Saturdays